



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 24, 1878.

There is an active and acrimonious news paper correspondence now in progress between Messrs. Abram S. Hewitt, of New York, and Henry Watterson, of Louisville, in relation to the respective parts they took in the presidential compromise case, the former asserting that the latter's animosity toward him was occasioned by his (Hewitt's) opposition to his (Watterson's) insane and ridiculous proposition to bring one hundred thousand unarmed men to Washington to inaugurate Mr. Tilden, and the latter asserting and offering to prove that the former is a blunderer and a marplot, and that, by betraying Mr. Tilden's confidence, he is in no small degree answerable for the inauguration of the fraudulent president. There is no doubt that Mr. Hewitt, the generally accredited congressional representative of Mr. Tilden, did a great deal toward emboldening the radicals to press their demands when he said it would be better to have a fraudulent president than that one drop of blood should be spilled, but it is equally true that Mr. Watterson's proposition had the same effect. The game of brag, thus simulated by these two gentlemen, together with the fear of a prolongation of Grant's term of office, and the knowledge that, through some of the large States of the North had democratic governors, they had radical legislatures, scared the democrats out of their senses, and induced them to allow a man to be inaugurated who everybody knew was not elected. There was no real danger of a drop of blood being spilled; for, had there been, the radicals, who, during their sway, have gotten possession of all the bonds and stocks in the country that are worth anything, would have been the first to cry out "take your president, and let us, thereby, save our ill gotten gains."

Mr. Randall and all the parties mentioned in a lately published account of the burning of a sealed package handed by Booth to somebody on the day of Lincoln's assassination, deny all knowledge of any such package, and say they were not in Washington at the time of the tragedy. The advantage of reproducing the particulars of the deplorable affair is not apparent to the general reader. He knows that Mr. Lincoln was shot by an insane actor and Mrs. Surratt hung by cool-headed lawyers, some of whom have since committed suicide to avoid the stigma of their conscience for the part they took in the murder of an innocent woman, but, as he also knows that none of the blameable parties can now be brought to account, he is more than willing to let the whole subject drop out of sight, and to have his attention directed to something more agreeable.

Mr. Bruce, the colored Senator from Mississippi, will not allow his white congressional colleagues, Messrs. Cameron and Swann, to carry off all the matrimonial honors this year, but will, this evening, at Cleveland, Ohio, be married to a young lady, in whom it requires more than usual attention to discover that she has any African blood in her veins. Mr. Bruce, it will be remembered, is the man Mr. Hayes sent for and attempted to bribe, as he did Mr. Conover, but failed.

The recent scandal in Washington could not have had much of the "outrageous" element in it, as the two most interested parties were riding together on the day following the reported "discovery."

The saddest news chronicled to day is the impending death of the young and beautiful Queen of Spain, whose romantic courtship and marriage so recently interested the reading world.

We have received from the publishers, Lee and Shepard, Boston, a copy of the Fall of D. D. Massey, a historical novel, by Charles Wells Russell, a native of Virginia. The scene is confined to the city whose fall is portrayed, at the time of its capture by the Saracens, under their great general, Khaled. It abounds in striking incidents and affords ample evidence of the superior imaginative faculties of the author.

From Washington.

[SPECIAL TO THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.

THE POTTER INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

The committee met again this morning, Mr. Potter chairman, and Messrs. Morrison, Springer, Butler, Cox, Reed and Hiseock present.—Mrs. Jenks was before the committee and was cross examined by Messrs. Springer, Butler, McMahon and Potter, the intention being to elicit evidence respecting the noted Sherman letter, but all attempts to induce a disclosure proved futile, Mrs. J. pursuing the same tactics used on Saturday, most of the time being occupied in badinage indulged in between the examiners and the witness, in which the witness generally excited laughter at the expense of her investigators. She would not tell who wrote the letter, who she says she dictated, and to which was appended the name of John Sherman, but she promised on to-morrow to produce certain letters written by Anderson to her, and certain other letters heretofore referred to in the course of the evidence written by Mr. Stanley Matthews and others.

The testimony, in fact, amounted to very little, the witness when apparently upon the eve of divulging something important suddenly stopping and refusing to answer further questions.

The friends of Mr. Aoklen, member of Congress from Louisiana, have issued a card denying in general terms the story of his insulting a lady in a Washington restaurant, and stating that the interference of General Rosser was unavailing. The card intimates that the difficulty between them will be settled by a duel. It is stated that Mr. Aoklen was seen out driving with the same woman the day after the occurrence at the restaurant.

Col. Jno. L. Vance ex-member of Congress has been adjudged insane and has been sent to the Athens Asylum, Ohio.

Foreign News.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

A dispatch from Constantinople reports that the Turkish right wing has made a forward movement. It is understood there that the land advocates the formation of a gendarmerie to replace the Russian army of occupation.—The Russians recently requested the British Consul at Bourgas to billet some soldiers, and in consequence of his refusal threatened to tear down the British flag. Minister Lyard instructed the Consul to refuse himself to a protest.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says:—"There is much excitement here concerning the arrangement by which Turkey is allowed to occupy the Balkan passes. It is thought Count Schouvaloff is accountable for making this concession."

A dispatch from Berlin says:—"A large number of Russian officers are expected here to-morrow. It is stated in well informed circles that in certain circumstances two divisions of Russian infantry will enter the country as a reinforcement to the Serbian army."

The Congress at day's sitting will discuss the details of the arrangement which was made on Saturday, permitting the Turks to garrison the Balkan passes.

The final dispatch declares that this concession on the part of Russia is unquestionably conditional upon the establishment of the autonomy of Roumelia and the evacuation of the interior by the Turkish troops. The interior organization of the province will be next discussed.

The conditions laid down by Russia are also late. It is understood that the negotiations relative to guarantees for the autonomy of the province will give rise to animated debate. The question of the evacuation of the fortress will also arise in connection with the organization of Roumelia. The Russian Privy Councillor Schloemer arrived in Berlin from St. Petersburg on Saturday, and immediately had interviews with Count Schouvaloff and Prince Gortschakoff. Prince Gortschakoff is confined to his bed.

Lord Beaconsfield, at the Saturday sitting of the Congress, made what is described as one of the finest speeches he ever delivered. He opposed the Russian demand that the Sultan, instead of being permitted to garrison the Roumelian fortresses, as he chose, should be obliged to designate beforehand the points he wished to fortify and the number of troops to be maintained thereat. Lord Beaconsfield did not quite succeed in convincing his audience.

A Berlin correspondent writes:—"Europe on Friday passed through a serious crisis. Lord Beaconsfield informed Prince Bismarck with extraordinary energy that on the question of fortifying the Balkan passes and garrisoning them with Turkish troops England would not hesitate a moment, and that he would quit Berlin on Monday if her demands were not unsatisfactory."

Another correspondent reports that a compromise was arranged according to which the number of troops in each pass should be determined by Europe. At present there is good reason to believe that when the withdrawal of the Russian troops and the future administrative organization of the provinces is discussed there will be another crisis as severe as the one just passed.

The London Times' correspondent considers it probable that the Congress will fix the number of Turkish troops to occupy the Balkans at 25,000.

The London Times expresses the opinion that there is no reason to fear serious disagreement in the Congress on the remaining topics. Several special dispatches mention the probability of a compromise on the Bessarabia question. It is believed that Roumelia will consent to relinquish the province with the exception of a strip of land bordering on the Danube.

A special dispatch from Berlin states that Great Britain and Austria resolutely insist on the Russians speedily evacuating Bulgaria, where until a new government is established there shall be a mixed European occupation. Russia demands that the number of troops which Turkey shall be entitled to station near the Balkans be limited to a comparatively small contingent and that Russia be allowed to continue military occupation for some time longer.

A Berlin correspondent says that Sofia is to be included in Northern Bulgaria. The former report that the city was to be included in Roumelia was erroneous. The Powers concerned are on condition that the frontier pass so close to the south of the town as not to menace Austrian interests in that quarter.

London, June 24.—All the Berlin correspondents were in declaring that the settlement of the Bulgarian question is entirely due to the firmness of the British representatives in the Congress. But Reuters' telegram says the Russian concessions on this head are entirely dependent on conditions for the organization and administration of Roumelia, the details of which have yet to be arranged. One condition is that the Russian troops when they evacuate Roumelia are not to be replaced by Turkish forces but by native militia composed of Christians or Muslims according to the prevailing religion of the district.

A Berlin dispatch received in Paris says:—"The French representative in the Congress support Lord Beaconsfield's demands on the Bulgarian question."

The London Times in a leading editorial says it considers the alleged scandal as nothing less than the abandonment by Russia of the policy which has guided her relations with Turkey during the last hundred years.

The Times adds:—"The process of piecemeal nibbling at Turkey's outlying provinces and the periodical reopening of the Eastern question, whenever circumstances seemed to favor it, would have been continued by the extension of Bulgaria, south of the Balkans, under Russian influence. It is to the firmness of the British representatives that we owe what we may venture to regard as a solution of the Eastern question. It was for this that unlimited powers were conferred to them by both houses of Parliament and they have given good proof that they are not undeserving the trust."

NEW YORK, June 24.—A special from Berlin says it is fully confirmed that Russia accepts the British programme regarding Bulgaria and that there is an increased probability of Austria occupying Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Russians are sending all military prisoners to Siberia.

At day's sitting of the Congress Count Schouvaloff will formulate Russia's conditions for the appointment of a commission to regulate the Balkan frontier. It is expected that the debate will be very animated.

It is stated in Russian diplomatic circles that the discussion on the delimitation of Bulgaria is taking a favorable turn, but difficulties are apprehended in reference to the evacuation of Shumla and Varna by the Turks.

London, June 24.—The Post, in a leading editorial, says:—"Russia is now authoritatively told that she is as far from Constantinople if not indeed further than she was when the war began. Herein lies the bitterness of the mortification to which she must now submit."

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Berlin dispatch reports that the condition of the Emperor is satisfactory. His power of moving the left arm is perceptibly increasing.

The condition of Queen Mercedes of Spain causes much anxiety. A violent hemorrhage supervened on Saturday and greatly weakened her.

Charles Matthews, the comedian, now ill in London, was a little easier last night. He has very little suffering, but there is no hope of his recovery.

France has purchased the Island of St. Bartholomew, West Indies, from Sweden for sixty thousand dollars.

London, June 24.—Special dispatches from Madrid to the Standard and the Daily News are much more decided about the Queen's danger than the official bulletins. At one time

her case was considered quite hopeless, and it is still extremely critical, but the worst symptoms have abated.

MADRID, June 24.—An official bulletin, issued this morning, announces that the Queen is worse.

MADRID, June 24.—Queen Mercedes is dying. Her Majesty received the last sacraments of the Church at five o'clock this morning in the presence of the King, members of the royal and Montpensier families and the ministers.

BERLIN, June 24.—An official bulletin, issued this morning, announces that the condition of the Emperor is satisfactory.

NEW YORK, June 24.—A London special says:—"Party riots were reported in Belfast Saturday night, during which several persons were killed and many wounded."

LONDON, June 24.—Chas. Matthews, the actor, whose critical illness at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, was announced last week, died at 2.40 o'clock this afternoon.

LONDON, June 24.—The Czar of Russia is expected to Berlin shortly, on his way to East. Prince Gortschakoff was absent from the session of the Congress on Saturday. He suffers from a fresh attack of gout.

The new autonomous province, south of the Balkans, is to be named Eastern Roumelia, or as it appears in the protocol, Roumelie Orientale.

The University of Virginia.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., June 24.—The celebration, indeed an event of interest to the whole people of Virginia, this year is especially noticeable, not only from the distinction and known reputation of visiting orators, but from the high degree of merit possessed by the orators of the two literary bodies, the Jefferson and Washington societies.

Yesterday Mr. Murkland, of Baltimore, preached before the Young Men's Christian Association in the large hall, which is only opened on festive days and fairs. His sermon fully sustained his fame as an eloquent and powerful preacher.

To-day the Washington Society holds its final celebration, having for its two speakers Mr. R. A. Jackson from Indiana and Mr. R. F. Long from N. C. The people of the adjacent county will remember that the medal last year in the Washington was carried off by a Fairfax man, Ellison, of Falls Church. Probably no college literary body in this country has more brilliant reputation than the Jefferson Society, for among its speakers—Holaday, Daniel, Broadus, and others, who have made for themselves great reputations, and besides, men from other States, who, as alumni of the University, now in distant communities, do honor to their alma mater. The people of this section will recall the fact that the medal was a few years ago awarded to Mr. Linden Kent, of Alexandria, and in the preceding year to his brother. This year the society is represented by an orator who is perhaps the best the Jefferson has ever had, even among her many highly distinguished representatives. Mr. D. G. Wooten, of Texas, has this year gained honors at the University which have given him more than a local reputation. It is the opinion of those who are familiar with the history of the society in its minutest details that he is the finest speaker who has ever represented that body. The writer has listened to many orators on the stump and in legislative halls, but thinks he never heard one possessing such traits of the orator, and in a higher degree than Mr. Wooten. Without any of the usual exaggerated compliments paid to college speakers, we predict for him a remarkable career, among the foremost orators of the country, and if Texas knows how to reward her talented sons he will become one of her most honored men.

Mr. Glasgow, of Virginia, is the other Jefferson speaker.

The Magazine medal is presented at the joint celebration on Wednesday night to the gentleman, Mr. Wooten, we have mentioned above. It was awarded to two of his pieces, the "Influences of Race and Climate on Civilization," and "Uncrowned Heroes." On the same night Thos. A. Hendricks delivers the joint Society address, and the Vice President de jure will meet with a warm reception from his youthful Southern audience.

Among the celebrations which at this season attract the attention of the people, that of the University of Virginia, particularly in the South, demands especial notice, for towards the honors which she confers not only the State at large, but the High Schools, which furnish her students, are now anxiously looking.

The list of graduates in the academic schools has not as yet been fully posted. As far as heard from, the graduates are as follows:—The M. S. Johnsons, of Alexandria, are graduates in the school of German.

On Thursday the diplomas are awarded and the final closes with the Grand German, which occurs in the Library of the University.

It is worth remarking that Mr. Thomas Harrison, of Leesburg, has made every ticket requisite for the master's degree except German. Mr. Motz, of Leesburg, takes the degree of M. D.

There is little doubt—although he has not finished one of his examinations—that Mr. R. M. Smith, of Warrenton, will receive diplomas on what is called the "Green Ticket"—Latin, Greek and Mathematics. This is an honor which has not been taken for many years, and always shows unusual ability and scholarship.

Among those who graduate in a university large number of schools is Mr. Garrett, (a son of Dr. Garrett, of Washington), who graduates in Latin, French, German and Mathematics.

The Presidential Fraud.

During the examination of Mrs. Jenks by the Potter committee, Saturday, the witness was rather disconcerted when General Butler produced her letter to Kollege, which she had marked "inviolable," and requested Kollege in a postscript to return to her. She expressed surprise at the production of this document, but Butler turned the laugh on her by observing, with a smile, that "all things are possible in Louisiana politics," quoting a phrase used by the witness in replying to one of his questions. When Butler handed Mrs. Jenks a printed copy of the Sherman letter, by which to identify the phrasing, she rolled up the book containing the letter and remarked that she did not need the help of the book and repeated the words of the letter for Anderson, because she had followed through study of the meaning as well as the words of the text.

She said the so-called Sherman letter was written in the St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans, from her dictation, but declined to state who the party was that wrote the letter. She said this "dead letter" was given to her by a man who was suspected of sinister designs in insisting upon a written guarantee. When asked why she went to Donaldsonville, and made other efforts to obtain the so-called Sherman letter from Mrs. Weber, if it was thus prepared, she persisted in the statement that she never did make any effort to obtain the letter for Anderson, because she did not know he wanted that letter, and because she knew it could be had without any trouble.

When Anderson's letter of June 10, 1877, was produced, in which the Sherman letter is directly referred to, and in which the term "dead letter" is used, she was somewhat disconcerted. Mrs. Jenks has previously testified that that term referred to the Wayne MacVeach communication, while Anderson's letter refers to the "dead letter" who was in New Orleans the preceding fall, when the visiting statesmen were in that city, and six months before the letter was written.

A Chequered Career!

One evening last week we called on Frank Waller, with many aliases, now lying dangerously ill in one of the lower cells of the county jail. The nature of his disease is brain trouble, his skull having been fractured, as he says, by a shell during the war. Waller was suffering so much pain we refrained from conversing much with him that evening, although he was very anxious to talk while his reason lasted, as he had been delirious for most of the time for several days previous.

During the conversation we mentioned the name of Special Constable Thurston, of Warrenton, who brought him here. At the mention of Thurston's name the prostrate man became so excited that we determined to defer the interview until his physical condition improved. Promising to call again, we left him suffering almost unbearable torment. His head had been shaved and blistered, leaving the features of the skull plainly visible. On the following day we received a letter from Waller, of which the following is a copy verbatim of the letter:—

To the editor of the Commonwealth.—In regard to Frank Waller's arrest on suspicion of horse stealing at Warrenton Junction and how he was treated, you can call on Messrs. Goldner, Shumate and Marn Taylor, also James C. Scott, attorneys here, who will give you the details of the arrest at Warrenton and Junction. And without using any thing of my own people, call on Dr. Mohrler, Elmo Pirkey, Bob Hanchbarger, William Patterson. These gentlemen will at once prove to you that Mr. H. Coffman and the special constable who gave his name R. L. Thornton, alias T. L. Thornton, have willfully lied on me, as Thornton swore that he arrested me in a negro house. He stated that twice in Warrenton, which are recorded against him there, and he stated the same in your Court here. And Mr. H. Coffman will have to swallow what he has said of me jump out of a cage, sentenced to the penitentiary soon! years ago, and broke my rite foot, and many other Complyment remarks upon me uncalculated, but if I have no money on my person, I have Friends and relations who will cause him to rane his Arme deeper than he has ever before; then he will never want to By me with 20 Dollars and a little Brandy.

On Tuesday last we again visited Waller, whose trial was set for this week, but, of course, impossible now on account of his condition. We found him asleep, and looking much thinner and weaker than when we had seen him last. He has little or no appetite, about the only nourishment he takes being a little "toddy" or milk punch. One of the latter being given him he recognized us and seemed delighted that we had come to see him again. We told him we wanted to get his history for publication, with which he seemed pleased, and commenced at once to relate his experiences in a manner leaving no doubt of the entire correctness of his statements.

B. Frank Waller is 37 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches in height, and when in health averages about 170 pounds in weight. He is one of the most powerful looking men we ever saw, measuring 45 or 46 inches around the chest, and before the wasting effects of illness and confinement, had muscles like iron. His head is well shaped, countenance intelligent; quick, keen eyes, and resolute mouth and general expression. He talks like a man whose intercourse with various localities had divested his speech of any particular local characteristic, being a little of East Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Eastern Shore all mixed up. He was born and raised in Spotsylvania county, served an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade under Capt. Peter Bowler; worked in Alexandria, Washington, Richmond, and Trenton, N. J. On the breaking out of the war he joined Maj. Anderson's battalion at Richmond; was in Magruder's command when a Federal battery was charged and captured on the York river, six miles below Richmond. It was in this charge that his foot was injured, "which," said Waller, "some of these fellows have said was recovered by me in jumping out of a cave while in motion." In July '62 he was captured at Salem, Church near Fredericksburg, where he was stuck at his sister's house. He was taken to Alexandria; remained there four months; escaped into Maryland; joined Stonewall Jackson's command near Staunton in '62, and was some time after recaptured along with Fred and James Morrison. The latter now keeps a lively stable in Richmond. [He was again taken to Alexandria; remained seven weeks; paid a wagon master \$110 to hire him, which enabled him to get out and escape. In the fall of '63 he joined Mosby's command about Fairfax C. H.; was again captured with John Cook and Henry Simpson, of Alexandria, and, with a number of others, was sentenced to be hung, but Mosby threatened retaliation on Federal officers then in his hands, and the sentence was not carried out. This was about the time that Mosby telegraphed to Lee at Richmond that the Federals at Alexandria were to be hung, and that Mosby had sent out them for the twenty wagons and had sent out and requesting that the other four be forwarded immediately. [Mosby's price, familiarity with the route, and movements and supply of the Federals.] From Alexandria he was sent to City Point and confined in the built pen for five days without food or attention, and had it not been for the kind intervention of a Mr. Martin, of Albemarle, he would have starved to death. Returning to Alexandria he was sent to Camp Distribution where he lay with intermittent fever for several months. He was then sent to Fort Independence, in Boston Harbor, where, after five months' confinement, he made his escape in a small boat under cover of darkness.

Waller then obtained a yankee uniform, went to Block Island, and with 700 Federal soldiers went to City Point where Generals Grant and Meade were stationed. From City Point he worked his way to Petersburg, got through the lines, was recaptured by the Federals but made his escape in time to engage in the hand to hand cavalry fight at Burk's Station, where his horse was shot under him. When the surrender came he was at Farmville. The next morning, Waller went to Fredericksburg and two years later, 1867, married Laura Toombs, then but 14 years old. He helped to build all the bridges from New Hawk's Nest to Huntington in 1869. He worked for O. T. Wilson and James Blaker, of St. Albans, Kanawha county, W. Va., for four years. Sometime in 1872 he had a difficulty with a bullying rough named Henry Bailey, or Hell Buck Bailey as he was generally called. Waller struck him in the neck with his fist, and Bailey was pronounced dead, but he recovered after two days unconsciousness.

While in jail 17 days awaiting the result of Bailey's injuries, Waller's wife disposed of all their effects and ran off to Fredericksburg, taking their three children with her. In Fredericksburg she commenced a life of shame, refusing Waller's entreaties to return to him, at the same time taking all the money he could get to send to her for that purpose. He went to Fredericksburg, sued out a writ of habeas corpus for recovery of his children, Messrs. Mason and Wallace being his counsel. His three little boys, the eldest in his eleventh year, are with relations and friends. One is with Mrs. Mary J. West, Fountain Cave; another at Ferry's Landing, near Mt. Vernon, on the Potomac, with his uncle, Edward E. Hayslop, and the other with Mrs. Waller's mother, Mrs. Clemmy Toombs, Fredericksburg. Waller has tried unsuccessfully to obtain a divorce from his wife, who he says is now in a house of ill fame in Washington, and who he claims murdered his little girl, four months old, by giving it laudanum, in Fredericksburg, shortly after their separation. He says she has made numerous attempts to have him murdered by hiring men to waylay him.

Waller worked for some time at the Mount Vernon Iron Works and is well acquainted in that neighborhood. His mother died last year at the age of 80. He has a brother Thom and an uncle Gordon Waller, a preacher,

Ohio, Antrim, Guernsey, county; also numerous relations in Albemarle, Spotsylvania, and in the State of Illinois.

After promising him to write to his sister, Miss Fannie E. Waller, of Fredericksburg, for the purpose of assisting her in his situation and condition, we left him in his pain and misery.—Harrisonburg Old Commonwealth.

The Proposed County Poor's House.

In response to a call, the citizens of Alexandria county met at Walker School house on the 20th instant, to receive a communication from the Board of Supervisors of Alexandria county, in answer to certain resolutions passed at a previous meeting of the people of the county, with reference to the sale of the county Court House and jail property, situated in Alexandria city, and, also, to take some action regarding the expediency of establishing a poor's house in the county.

Mr. G. R. Adams, chairman of the previous meeting, called the meeting to order, and read the communication of the Supervisors of the county, as follows:—

The Board of Supervisors are advised that the relative interests in equity of both the city and county of Alexandria in the court house and jail property can only be ascertained by a suit in equity before a court of competent jurisdiction, or by commissioners appointed for that purpose by the Governor of Virginia under an act of the Legislature. The court house and jail property were conveyed by the United States to the Governor of Virginia in trust for the use of the corporation and county of Alexandria. The title is in the Governor, and it will require an act of the Legislature to dispose of the property.

The city of Alexandria bears no part of the expenses of the county court house, nor has it contributed anything toward maintaining said court house since the organization of the corporation and the removal of the city courts from said building. The average expense of the county court house from 1870 to 1877 has been about \$104 per year, and the increase in the expenses of 1877 was occasioned by the attempt of the city of Alexandria to get possession of the court house and jail, and which was defended and defeated by the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors are advised that the respective interests of the city and county in said property not being determined, that the interests of the county cannot be disposed of at all until said respective interests are determined, either by a court of equity or by Legislative enactment. After it is determined by proper authority what interest the county has in said property, then it may be proper to ascertain upon what terms that interest can be disposed of. It is understood that the City School Board desires to purchase the court house (but not the jail) for educational purposes, on terms of purchase have been proposed to the Board.

The Board of Supervisors are advised that, by section 7 of an act approved February 13, 1877, of the Legislature of Virginia, entitled an act to amend and re-enact sections 3 and 6 of an act, approved March 26, 1875, &c., &c., they are authorized, with the consent of the County Court, to purchase any such real estate as may be necessary for the erection of all necessary county buildings, and to make such orders concerning such corporate property as now exists, or as may hereafter be acquired, as they may deem expedient. The Board does not deem it expedient to make any order concerning the court house and jail property. They prefer that a majority of the tax payers of Alexandria county should act as they deem proper in the premises, independent of the Board of Supervisors.

On motion of H. A. Whallon it was placed on file for future reference.

Mr. Jefferson Taey, Treasurer of the county, said he had been asked, by a vote at a previous meeting, to make some inquiry concerning a tract of land suitable for a poor's house farm for the paupers of Alexandria county; thought the property known as the Cassis Mill Farm was very suitable; it contained 42 acres and could be purchased for \$20 or \$25 an acre. Chairman Adams asked Mr. Taey how the poor's house system worked in Fairfax county?

Mr. Taey replied that Judge Sangster thought it a great saving institution to that county.

Mr. Taey gave the cost of supporting the paupers of Alexandria county during his term as County Treasurer as follows:—For the year 1875, \$797.95; for 1876, \$1,045.71; for 1877, over \$1,300.

Mr. S. H. Syphard wished to know the modus operandi of supporting the paupers of the county under the present system.

Mr. Taey said the permanent paupers were, by order of the Superintendent of the Poor, put under the charge of some person or family, and that person or family would receive a certain sum of money every month from the county for the support of that pauper, which arrangement, said Mr. Taey, very often gave dissatisfaction. He then referred to a pauper class, which he termed temporary paupers, those that support their pauperism carelessly during the working months of the year, and when winter comes have nothing to live upon; they then represent themselves to the Superintendent of the poor as being destitute and suffering, and he gives them an order on some store for so much provision, the said orders being paid by order of the County Supervisors.

Mr. G. H. Mortimore denounced the present system of providing for the poor as a swindle, and growing worse and worse every year; there were too many able bodied paupers in the county; he wanted a poor's house with plenty of land attached to it, and when these temporary paupers came around pleading poverty, feed them, but make them work.

Mr. John T. Birch thought the poor house plan would impose a heavier tax on the people than the present system.

Mr. John L. Johnston thought that under the poor house plan the Superintendent would be able to room to an extravagant and he wished to and the result would be that the county would have equally as much expense to bear as now.

Mr. R. S. Laacy offered the following resolution:—"Resolved, That a committee of 11 be appointed to take into consideration the most feasible plan of providing for the poor of the county, and that if the committee deem the erection of a poor's house expedient, to take into consideration the entire matter and report at a meeting subsequent to a call of the chairman of the select committee."

The resolution was adopted and the chair appointed Messrs. Jefferson Taey, John L. Johnston, John Slater and Harrison Hatch, of Jefferson District; Messrs. G. R. Adams, Thomas H. Syphard, H. A. Whallon and Harvey Bailey, of Arlington District; Messrs. Henry W. Feby, G. O. Wunder and Thos. Jewell, of Washington District.

Mr. R. S. Laacy wished to know of the County Treasurer, with reference to paupers, how much burden the Government property, known as Freedman's Village, was compared to other portions of the county, to the tax payers.

The Treasurer replied that really all the burden came from that quarter.

Mr. F. R. Windsor said if such was the case the Government ought to know it, and the press of Washington as well as that of Alexandria should be informed of it.

News of the Day.

Mr. John D. Patton, of Georgetown, fell dead in St. John's church, in that city yesterday. He entered the church apparently in good health, and during the service had risen, prayer, and he fell backward, the book falling to the floor from his lifeless grasp. A slight commotion swept through the choir, but so slight that the rector only thought some one had fainted.

Col. George P. Kane, Mayor of Baltimore, died yesterday. Col. Kane prevented the Massachusetts troops from being massed on their way through Baltimore in 1861, but for all that was arrested soon after by the Federal authorities and confined in prison for fourteen months. On his release he came South, and remained until some time after the close of the war.

Farmers in all parts of Ohio are receiving almost daily notices signed "Working Men's Bread or Blood Committee," and warning them against buying labor-saving machinery and especially self-binding reapers. Threats are made that every such reaper will be destroyed and shocks of grain turned if an attempt is made to use them. No cases of violence however have yet been reported.

General McKeezie has returned to Texas with four hundred head of horses, which he recovered from the Indian marauders that made the raid on this side of the Rio Grande. He had no fight with the Mexican troops, though he chased Colonel Pedro Valdez twice, but could not overhand him and his troops.

At the closing exercises of Madame Bar's Academy, in Washington, on Wednesday, Miss Mamie McCalla, the granddaughter of J. A. Garbriht, esq., and who was the belle of the Bethel commencement ball at Warrenton last week, was awarded a gold medal.

The New York plough company's work at Newark, N. J., were burned yesterday. Loss \$100,000.

Letter from Leesburg.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

LEESBURG, VA., June 22.—Our wheat crop is simply enormous. People talk of twenty to thirty bushels to the acre, and it good weather prevails now for a week it will escape injury, as the recent heavy rains have not affected it seriously.

One of the saddest signs of the times is the continual deerying of legislative bodies, and "business interests" are said to be affected injuriously by the wild schemes propounded by legislators. When the Silver bill was under discussion the greater part of the press urged that it would cause gold to rise. It passed and gold fell considerably, and the cries of the deprecators of silver